

In the Abstract:

The paragraph starting at page 18, line 2, is amended and now reads as follows:

-- An intake system for preparing combustion air (1) is for an internal combustion engine of a portable handheld work apparatus. The intake system includes: a carburetor (2); an air filter ~~(3)~~, (3) which is connected upstream of the carburetor (2); and, a filter case (4) which closes the air filter (3) from the outside. A combustion air channel (5) leads from a take-up opening (6) in a cooling air fan (7) of the engine to an inlet opening (24) in the filter case (4). The filter case (4) includes at least one defined ventilation opening (8) for connecting an inner space (9) of the filter case (4) to the ambient air. The flow cross section of the ventilation opening (8) is so designed that the ~~air flows~~ airflows through the inlet opening (24), the intake opening (18) of the carburetor (2) and the ventilation opening (8) are compensated at the rated rpm of the engine and that a uniform pressure level adjusts in the inner space (9) of the filter case (4). --